



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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FB08-37

## Spiny Lobster Minimum Import Size: Seeking Public Comment *Comment Period Ends August 11, 2008*

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) is seeking public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)/Amendment 4 to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and Amendment 8 to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic to evaluate the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils' proposal to establish a regulatory program to protect spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) and enhance enforcement of that program. The Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of the DEIS on June 27, 2008 (73 FR 36504).

This action would prohibit any person in the United States from importing spiny lobster:

- Less than 5-ounces tail weight (5 ounces is defined as a tail that weighs 4.2–5.4 ounces), or compliance may be demonstrated by meeting the greater than 3-inch carapace length or 5.5-inch tail length;
- Or if imported into Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands, less than 6.0-ounces tail weight (6 ounces is defined as a tail that weighs 5.9–6.4 ounces), or compliance may be demonstrated by meeting the 3.5-inch carapace length or 6.2-inch tail length.
- Additionally, the importation of lobster tail meat without the exoskeleton (shell) attached, egg-bearing female lobsters, or tails stripped of eggs would be prohibited.

The Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, in cooperation with NOAA Fisheries Service, developed the amendment.

## Request for Comments

Written comments on this DEIS must be received no later than August 11, 2008, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the **Addresses** section for information on where and how to submit comments.

## Addresses

Electronic copies of the DEIS may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SpinyLobsterAmendment.htm>

or for a hard (paper) copy contact:

Sustainable Fisheries Division  
Southeast Regional Office  
NOAA Fisheries Service  
263 13th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Electronic submissions: e-mail: [0648-AV61.DEIS@noaa.gov](mailto:0648-AV61.DEIS@noaa.gov)
- Fax: (727) 824-5308
- Mail: Jason Rueter  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
Southeast Regional Office  
NOAA Fisheries Service  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5505

When submitting fax or e-mail comments, include the following document identifier in the comment subject line: 0648-AV61. All comments received are a part of the public record and will be posted to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential information or otherwise sensitive or protected

information. Anonymous comments will be accepted. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

#### **How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?**

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve future fishery bulletins, please contact:

Kim Amendola, Communication Specialist

Phone: 727-551-5707, FAX: 727-824-5320

E-mail: [SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov)

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail: [SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov) and include: (1) "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line and (2) your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail.

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